



AннаLee (Cosens) Purdy swept into this world Nov. 10, 1920 the daughter of Ann and Lee Cosens was born in Anaconda, but spent her entire life in Bozeman growing up with her brother and sister Edward Cosens and Shirley Quinnell. AnnaLee's life embraced three endearing passions: dancing, entertaining and her grandchildren.

As a child AnnaLee developed dance skills of an extreme gymnast called "contortion" dancing. She trained vigorously with her instructor, Georgiana Fisher, who, each summer, took her to California to perfect her skills. AnnaLee regularly performed on the Ellen, Willson, and Emerson stages. When her contortion dancing career ended, she followed her heart by teaching ballroom dancing in the Episcopal Church. Many Bozeman community members learned the waltz, fox trot, and two-step with her guidance.

On July 10, 1941, AnnaLee married R.P. "Bud" Purdy. Together they shared numerous business ventures including: Phillips Books Store, Purdy Sales Company, and the Frontier Club in West Yellowstone. AnnaLee ran the Club through riots, earthquakes and disgruntled employees always with a smile and a great piece of prime rib. Meanwhile Bud managed the MSU Fieldhouse booking great entertainment, but not without the help of AnnaLee hosting after program parties. By opening their home in Pony to Rodeo sponsors and donors they secured events such as the College National Finals Rodeo. She made entertaining look effortless.

Together AnnaLee and Bud had two children, Lee Purdy (Betsy Stark, Spokane) and Daryl Purdy (Richard Wallace, Bozeman). She was blessed with three beautiful grandchildren Linda Lee Smith (deceased), Leah Kennedy and Cole Wallace. AnnaLee found herself in the classroom, on field trips, and at a variety of sporting event sharing her joy of life.

AnnaLee continued her love of community by serving on the Historic Preservation Board as well as helping the Salvation Army with the doll show. She was a member of Middle Creek Women's Club, Mad-Gal's and a lifetime parishioner of the Holy Rosary Parish. She also founded the accessory show, "I Haven't a Thing to Wear."

AnnaLee celebrated every day. Her zest for life will live on in all those that she touched.

Memorials in her name may be made to the Bud & AnnaLee Purdy Rodeo Scholarship Fund, c/o MSU Foundation, 1501 S. 11th, Bozeman, MT 59715; the Pioneer Museum, 317 W. Main, Bozeman, MT 59715; or to a charity of choice.